



As each year presents change and growth, communities throughout Indiana face the challenge of protecting the environment. IDEM knows that while communities prosper, their environmental planning needs do also. "Partnering for Liveable Environments" is an agency priority that allows communities the opportunity to use IDEM's environmental knowledge and programs to establish community-based environmental initiatives. These outreach efforts include a variety of programs to improve the quality of our environment.

Liveable Environments Network

The "Liveable Environments Network" is an interagency initiative that strives to cooperatively address the environmental issues of Hoosier communities. The Network is bringing together representatives from several statewide agencies and organizations that can direct communities to appropriate resources, such as technical assistance and grant programs to help develop community-based environmental programs.

Watershed Restoration Action Strategy

Indiana residents who live along many of our state's rivers and streams play an integral part in the health of these waterways. By being stakeholders in the watershed areas, these residents can provide important information when it comes to the planning and management of the watershed area.

The Watershed Management Section of IDEM is currently working on developing Watershed Restoration Action Strategies (or "WRAS") throughout the state of Indiana. A component of the national Clean Water Action Plan, the WRAS includes all known information, past and present, about a watershed area.

The purpose of a WRAS is to provide technical information and strategies to citizens that will help improve the water quality throughout the watershed. Each WRAS has information specific to a particular watershed area. There are 11 WRASs in draft form being developed throughout Indiana.

 www.state.in.us/idem/owm/planbr/wsm

Diesel Emissions

The effects of diesel emissions on Northwest Indiana air quality and human health have long been a concern to citizens in the region. In an effort to address these concerns, the Office of Air Quality has initiated a community-based work group called "The Northwest Indiana Community-Based Diesel Initiative."

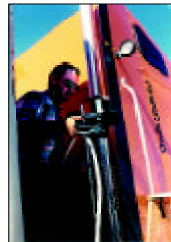


A kick-off event was held to announce the initiative and its goals in January 2000 with a public forum in Hammond. The work group helped identify sources for emissions and is identifying potential solutions. The work group will develop a plan that outlines a series of options to help reduce diesel emissions in Northwest Indiana.

 www.state.in.us/idem/oam/programs/cab/cabv3i1.pdf

Assisting Communities Pilot Project

Small communities face unique hurdles in approaching environmental planning. In order to better understand the issues Hoosier communities face, partnerships have been forged between two communities and IDEM to work in cooperation to address pertinent environmental issues.



The town of New Harmony and the city of Aurora were selected as the pilot communities in IDEM's effort. This cooperative effort lets IDEM work closely with the communities to provide useful knowledge and technical resources necessary to make community-based decisions regarding environmental planning. Educational workshops will provide the communities with opportunities to meet representatives from IDEM, gather information on various programs and voice concerns.

100% Club

Teamwork between IDEM and external entities is crucial in the pursuit of a cleaner environment. IDEM initiated the "100% Club" to recognize those who strive for excellence in environmental compliance. The club recognizes businesses and municipalities that meet full compliance with environmental standards for a calendar year.

For 2000, 20 businesses throughout Indiana have become members of the 100% Club based on their compliance in 1999.

The club was launched to help meet three key goals: clean air, clean water and clean land. By achieving full compliance, each facility displays its commitment to these goals and to the environment.

IDEM is participating with several other states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the implementation and development of U.S. EPA's National Environmental Performance Track Program. The National Performance Track Program was launched by U.S. EPA in June 2000 and is similar to the 100% Club. IDEM has committed to blending Indiana's 100% Club Program into the national program for the year 2000.

 www.state.in.us/idem/100percentclub/index.html

